

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are in the application. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the phrase "twisting said second tube into a helical configuration" is "not clear". Claim 1 has been amended to avoid the objected-to language, and claim 6 has been amended to parallel claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, are in accord with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of original dependent claim 3. In the Official Action, the Examiner had rejected claim 1 along with various dependent claims on three separate bases under 35 U.S.C. §102(b); namely, the Examiner asserted that claim 1 and certain dependent claims were allegedly anticipated by D'Onofrio (U.S. Patent No. 3,730,229); Vittorio et al. (GB 2204945); and Leone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,891,108). Claim 3, however, was not rejected on any of these bases. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, along with dependent claims 2 and 4-8, are patentable over D'Onofrio, Vittorio et al. and Leone et al.

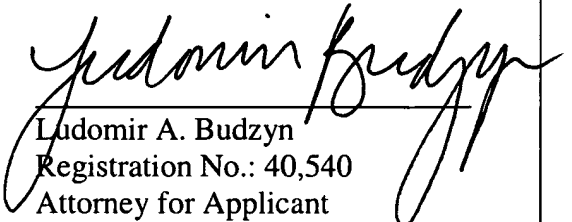
The Examiner also rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brauker et al. (WO 00/43052) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Brauker et al. alone.

Brauker et al. is directed to a vascular graft including an ePTFE layer. In the embodiments cited by the Examiner, a film 14 is provided which is helically wrapped to form a tube. (See, e.g., page 13, lines 1-2; page 15, lines 10-11).

With the subject invention, and as set forth in claim 1, a method is provided which includes "forming a first tube", and "forming a second tube having first and second ends, said second tube including ePTFE". The method further includes "twisting said second tube by rotating said first end relative to said second end". The helical configuration in Brauker et al. is obtained by helical winding of a tape-shaped film. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Brauker et al. to twist a tube by rotating the ends of the tube relative to one another. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, along with the dependent claims 2 and 4-8, are patentable over Brauker et al.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions or if additional information is required, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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